

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In recent years, ~~there have been researches~~ research has been conducted about a visual restoration aiding device using an electrode or the like placed (implanted) in an eye to induce restoration of vision by electrically stimulating cells constituting a retina. ~~As such visual restoration aiding device, there has been proposed, for~~ For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,935,155 teaches a visual restoration aiding device designed to convert an extracorporeally photographed visual image to an optical signal or an electromagnetic signal, transmit the converted signal into the eye, and then output (pass) an electrical stimulation pulse signal (a stimulating electric current) through the electrode to stimulate the cells constituting the retina to induce visual restoration ~~(see U.S. Patent No. 5,935,155)~~. In the case of inducing the visual restoration by the electrical stimulation pulse signal provided through the electrode, it is necessary to place as many electrodes as possible at a high density in order to provide ~~more~~ clearer vision.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a state ~~that in which~~ the electrodes are arranged at high density, however, when the electrical stimulation pulse signals are simultaneously outputted through adjacent electrodes, those signals are likely to interfere with each other. Such interference would become a factor that hinders the visual restoration.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention has been made in view of the above ~~circumstances and has~~ circumstance. It is an object to overcome the above problems and to provide a visual

restoration aiding device which can properly induce restoration of vision while preventing electrical stimulation pulse signals from interfering with each other even when electrodes are arranged at high density.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The substrate 21 is made of a flexible material having good biocompatibility, which is polyimide in the present embodiment. The substrate 21 is of a substantially long plate shape whose end (right end in Fig. 4A) is provided, on the under surface of the substrate 21 (i.e., on the back of the drawing sheet of Fig. 4A), with a multipoint electrode array having a plurality of electrodes 23 arranged at predetermined intervals (at regular intervals) for applying the electrical stimulation pulse signals to the cells constituting the retina. The electrodes 23 are arranged in a honeycomb pattern in order to minimum the intervals between the electrodes 23 as shown in Fig. 4A, particularly, in a partially enlarged figure. This arrangement contributes to ~~increase~~ an increased electrode placement density, thereby achieving high spatial resolution. In the present embodiment, a total of sixty-four electrodes 23 in an 8 x 8 arrangement are placed on the substrate 21.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A visual restoration aiding device ~~for restoring vision of a patient comprises:~~ including an electrode array having a plurality of electrodes placed on or under a retina of an eye of the patient for applying an electrical stimulation pulse signal to cells constituting the retina; a photographing unit which photographs an object to be recognized by the patient; a converting unit which converts photographic data transmitted from the photographing unit to data for electrical stimulation pulse signals; and a control unit which outputs an electrical stimulation pulse signal through each electrode based on the data for electrical stimulation pulse signals;

~~the control unit controlling the signal output~~ so as not to simultaneously output the electrical stimulation pulse signals through electrodes arranged within a distance that electrical stimulation pulse signals outputted through the electrodes will interfere with each other and ~~the control unit switching~~ which switches between the electrodes used for outputting the electrical stimulation pulse signals and the electrodes unused for outputting the electrical stimulation pulse signals.